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UU Urban Ministry e-News

A monthly electronic newsletter of your UU Urban Ministry



Dear Linda,

Three years ago two volunteers from Belmont began helping Renewal House residents with their English at the shelter. Today that effort has grown into a twice weekly class with over 20 volunteers from eight congregations. We have moved the classes from the shelter to the Education and Justice Center at the UU Urban Ministry so that we can publicize the location and offer this resource to other shelters and agencies. Adding childcare during the classes has made the program more accessible to students, and building in extra time for crocheting, zumba dance classes, and support groups before and after class has made the ESL program into a vibrant and caring community. This program is constantly expanding and changing to meet the needs of the dozen or more women who come each week to improve their English. Most recently, volunteers responded to the need for preparation for the Naturalization/Citizenship test that several students are working towards, and this has become a regular part of the ESL curriculum for advanced students. It has been incredible to watch this special program grow over the last few years, and although the explicit content of the program is English Language, the implicit sharing is that of confidence and joy.



Many Thanks to all who make this possible,
Rev. Kate Wilkinson
Coordinator of Congregational Outreach
and Volunteers

If you have questions or want to respond to any of the announcements in the e-newsletter below, please contact Rev. Kate Wilkinson at 617-318-6010 x214 or kwilkinson@uum.org.

Issue: # 36

October/2011

"Education is for improving the lives of others, and for leaving your community and world better than you found it."

-Marian Wright Edelman

In This Issue

[Renewal House](#)

[Roxbury Youth Programs](#)

[UUUM](#)



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and click on the "like" button to keep track of all of our latest news, photos, and upcoming events.

Mark Your Calendars!

Candlelight Vigil
Thursday, October 27
6:30-7:30pm
at the UU Urban Ministry
October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. In years past we have hosted a vigil honoring those whose lives were lost due to domestic violence in MA. This year we



are pleased to invite you to join us for a collaborative vigil honoring the lives of those who have been lost due to violence in our community and across the state. Led by RH staff, RYP youth and men from the United Souls group, this event is sure to be emotional and uplifting - highlighting the various experiences of the individuals and families we serve.

Spark: The Fire Within
A Performance to Benefit Renewal House
Saturday October 29th
7-9 pm at First Church in Boston

We are celebrating the voices of domestic violence survivors in "Spark: The Fire Within," an exciting evening of performance, poetry, dance and art to raise money for the work of Renewal House. You can show your support to domestic violence survivors, and our work providing support, education, and community awareness, by becoming an event sponsor or taking out a program ad with a message of support (For details check our [UUUM website](#)). Tickets to the event are \$30, and may be purchased by contacting Ruth Crocker at rcrocker@uum.org. All ad proceeds and \$25 of each ticket sale will be matched, doubling your donation to Renewal House.

Prophetic Encounters Book Release Celebration
A Jack Mendelsohn Forum special event
with scholar and author Dan McKanan
Sunday afternoon, November 13, 3-5pm
Due to be released on November 1st by Beacon Press, *Prophetic Encounters* is the first comprehensive history of the intimate relationship between religion and the Left in the United States. Come learn how Unitarians and Universalists have worked alongside Jews, Catholics, Freethinkers, Spiritualists, mainline and evangelical Protestants, and so many others in extending liberty, equality, and solidarity to all people.

RENEWAL HOUSE
an emergency domestic violence shelter

Volunteer Opportunities:

Lights, Camera, Action!

Help Needed Saturday, Oct 29

We are looking for production help with our upcoming performance, Spark: The fire within. If you can assist with lighting, props, or sound for an afternoon dress rehearsal and evening performance, please let us know! Also, we are in need of a spotlight and movable partition wall for the performance. Could you loan us either of these items?



Matching Gifts Needed

We are excited to announce that we have received a two-part grant from the John and Geraldine Weil Foundation to support Renewal House. They have given us a \$15,000 grant and will make a second \$15,000 grant if we can raise that amount in matching funds. Imagine what a total of \$45,000 could do to transform the lives of people escaping violence in their homes. Please use this opportunity to [double your support of Renewal House!](#)

Other Needs:

Renewal House is in need of a donation of stress balls. These malleable balls are shown to reduce stress and muscle tension. Also helpful would be additional copies of the text books we use in our ESL classes...[Side By Side](#) and [Ventures 2](#). For a current list of other helpful donations, please visit our [Renewal House Needs](#) page. Thank you!

ROXBURY YOUTH PROGRAMS

after-school programming serving middle and high school youth

Volunteer Opportunities:

Many Ways to Engage

We have many different ways for you to volunteer with RYP. There are one-time commitments and group opportunities as well as weekly roles for those of you who want to be more deeply involved.



If anything on this list interests you, please contact Rev. Kate Wilkinson for more details. And if you have not already done so, please fill out our [online volunteer application](#).

- Tutor a middle school or high school student one afternoon or evening a week (Monday-Thursday 3:30-6pm or Thursday evenings from 6:30-7:30pm).
- Cook dinner one night for Roxbury Youth Programs

teens and tutors (grocery shop and cook for ~30 people on a Wednesday night. Dinner is at 6pm.).

- Join us for our weekly game night on Wednesdays from 6:30-7:30pm.
- Help get us tickets for a Fun Friday Fieldtrip (for 25 middle school or 25 high school students).
- Lead an art activity with 10 middle school students on a Wednesday afternoon (5-6pm).
- Become a college coach (meet twice a month with a high school junior or senior to help them navigate the college application process).
- Lead a resume workshop for our high school students.
- Help lead our weekly learning circles for middle school students (Math circles are Tuesdays from 4-5pm; English Language Arts circles are Thursdays from 4-5pm).
- Be a guest on one of our career panels (January and February dates).
- Interview students during our mock interview series (phone interviews and in person interviews during the month of March).
- Buy pizza and popcorn for our middle schoolers and join us for an in-house movie on a Friday afternoon.
- Lead a nutrition workshop and teach our kids how to prepare a healthy snack (one Wednesday or Friday afternoon).
- Spend an hour being a computer lab chaperone (Monday-Thursday 5-6pm).

RYP WEEKEND: EXPLORER'S CLUB

a weekend and summer enrichment program for elementary and middle school children

Volunteer Opportunities:

Lead/Sponsor an Explorer's Club

10 a.m. - 12 noon on any of the following Saturdays: 12/10, 1/14, 4/14, and 5/12

Think about the kind of fun enrichment activities your congregation, youth group, committee, or small group ministry could offer a group of 25-30 elementary school aged children! We welcome your ideas. In particular, we would love to have science-, craft-, and health-related Explorer's Clubs. And maybe a fun field day next spring! Want to do something, but not sure what? Contact Rev. Kate Wilkinson for suggestions. kwilkinson@uum.org or 617-318-6010 x214.



Become a Mentor

A critical and meaningful component of Explorer's Club is mentoring...and we need more mentors! If you are interested in mentoring, please fill out our [online application](#). Please also plan to regularly attend Explorer's Clubs, which are held one Saturday a month. It's very important for you to get to know the program, staff, and, of course, children (and for us to get to know you) before becoming a mentor. Our next volunteer training is on Saturday, September 10.

UNITED SOULS

a support group and network for men in transition

On-going Event:

Weekly Meetings

Thursdays, 6-8 p.m.

All men are welcome to attend.

If interested, please contact:

Sam Williams

swilliams@uumm.org

617-318-6010 x205



Sincerely,

Rev. Kate Wilkinson

Coordinator of Congregational Outreach and Volunteers

Unitarian Universalist Urban Ministry

10 Putnam Street, John Eliot Square

Roxbury, MA 02119

617-318-6010 x214

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